1

195015

ATSDR Record of Activity

UID #: i d 1 0 Date: 09/29/92 Time: 1310 am__ pm X

Site Name: Ideal Cooperrage Inc. City: Jersey City Cnty: Hudson State: NJ

CERCLIS #: NJD980532907 Cost Recovery #: 206P Region: 2

Site Status (1) _ NPL X Non-NPL _ RCRA _ Non-Site specific _ Federal
(2) _ Emergency Response X Remedial _ Other

Activities

_ Incoming Call
_ Outgoing Call
_ Conference Call
_ Incoming Mail
_ Public Meeting*
_ Other Meeting
_ Data Review
X Health Consult*
_ Health Referral
_ Written Response
_ Site Visit*
_ Info Provided
_ Training
_ Other

Requestor and Affiliation: (1) Steve Jones, ATSDR Reg. 2 Rep.
Phone: 212 264-9255
Address: EPA Reg. II, Room 3137C, 26 Federal Plaza
City: New York State: NY Zip Code: 10278

Contacts and Affiliation

(2) Dan Harkey, OSC, 315 469-3554 ( )
( ) ( )

1=ATSDR 2=EPA 3=Other Fed 4=State Health 5=State Environment
6=Local Health 7=Elected Official 8=Private Co 9=Private Citizen
10=News Media 11=Citizen Group 12=USCG 13=Natl Respns Cntr 14=Other

Program Areas

_ Health Assessment _ Health Studies _ Tox Info-profile _ Worker Hlth
_ Petition Assessment _ Health Surveillnc _ Tox Info-Nonprofil _ Admin
_ Emergency Response _ Disease Regstry _ Subst-Spec Resch _ Other
X Health Consultation _ Exposr Regstry _ Health Education

Narrative Summary:

I contacted Steve Jones via ASYNC at 1510 hours on 9/29/92 to relay information concerning the Ideal Cooperage site located in Jersey City, NJ. EPA has conducted additional site characterization and has requested a follow-up to a previous ATSDR record of activity dated 12/20/91. Recommendations in the previous record of activity included restricting access to the site and conducting additional sampling to determine the extent of mercury contamination in the area of test pit #4, including specific compounds in addition to total mercury.

The Ideal Cooperage site consists of approximately 1.3 acres and is located at 39 New York Ave. in Jersey City, NJ. The site was used as an empty drum storage area for a steel drum reconditioning facility that was operated on the adjacent property. There are currently no buildings or activity on the site. The site is fenced except on the south side which is steeply sloped and bordered by railroad tracks. The site is heavily vegetated with low

ROUTING:
H. Emmett, E. Skowronski
D. Barry, A. Susten
FILE

brush and small trees. The nearest residential area is approximately 1000 feet from the site.

Six test pit excavations were conducted at various locations throughout the site in May, 1991. Surface and subsurface soil samples collected at depths of 0 to 7.5 feet detected low levels of organics and metals, with the exception of test pit #4, in which total mercury was detected at 517 ppm at a depth of 0 to 0.5 feet. The total mercury concentration at the other five test pits ranged from <0.01 to 2.94 ppm. Three surface soil samples collected on 10/11/92 at test pit #4 detected total mercury at 28.5, 113, and 292 ppm. Additional sampling was conducted at test pit #4 on 5/14/92. The sampling consisted of 26 surface samples (0-6 inch) and 5 subsurface (12-18 inches) covering a sampling grid 60 X 60 feet. Results were reported in both total mercury and inorganic mercury. The maximum concentration of mercury detected in surface soil was at sample D-4 which detected 481 ppm total mercury and 456 ppm inorganic mercury. The maximum concentration detected in subsurface soil was 25.8 ppm total mercury. Inorganic mercury was detected at 107 ppm (estimated value) in surface soil at location C-4. All other surface samples were ≤ 36.8 ppm total mercury.

Action Required/Recommendations/Info Provided:

The level of mercury detected in soil at the Ideal Cooperage site may present a potential health threat. The areas of potential concern include sample areas D-4 and C-4 in which total mercury was detected in surface soil at 481 and 107 ppm. The mercury detected in all samples was primarily in the inorganic form. Although the mercury levels at these two sample locations are elevated, no adverse health effects would be expected to result under current conditions. The area were samples D-4 and C-4 were taken are highly vegetated and complete exposure pathway would not be expected. If the contamination is left in place in the area of samples D-4 and C-4, appropriate deed notification of the property should be implemented. If the contamination is removed, deed notification would not be necessary. The mercury detected at the other sample locations in the test pit #4 area are below levels shown to cause adverse health effects in animals or humans.

Signature: Joseph Little Date: 9/30/92

Concurrence: Buck Barrow Date: 9-30-92